



**TERESA WILSON**  
**CITY MANAGER**



**Run. Grow. Transform.**



**We Are Columbia**

**JUNE 2015**

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# City Manager's Spotlight



The City Manager's Spotlight provides details about what is happening in the City of Columbia in an effort to keep citizens informed about City operations. The City Manager's Spotlight on June 2015 reflects on the North Main Plaza Open House and Ribbon Cutting, Liberty Fellowship's 12th Class Announcement, the Community Relations Council's 51st Anniversary Luncheon, Community Development Department's Financial Literacy Programs featured in a National Report, City's Vertical Development and more.

## **CITY FEATURED IN NATIONAL REPORT FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMS TO ITS RESIDENTS**

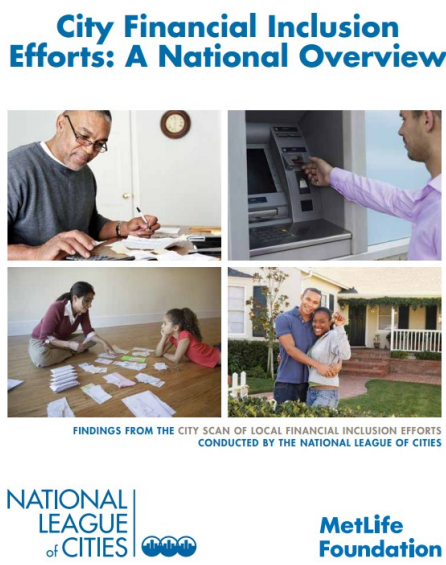
The City of Columbia was featured in the National League of Cities' (NLC) report that highlights city leaders' ongoing commitment to addressing the financial challenges of their residents. Columbia, SC was one of the 25 cities in the United States with more than six financial inclusion programs in place.

The report, City Financial Inclusion Efforts: A National Overview, outlines the work that Columbia is doing to help families that are struggling with debt, foreclosure or other financial challenges. The report summarizes key findings that showcase the depth and breadth of local strategies to help residents become more financially secure.

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine spearheaded the first Access Columbia conference in April 2014, which was a conference that offered multiple workshops about financial education to youth and adults. Additionally, the City of Columbia's financial inclusion programs include the largest individual development account program in the state with a city-funded 3:1 match, homeownership assistance and workshops and credit counseling.

The NLC is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

For more information about the City's financial literacy initiative and programs, call 803-545-3020.



[Download the City Financial Inclusion Efforts: A National Overview Report](#)

## CITY OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER RATE CHANGES

On Tuesday, June 16, 2015, City Council approved water and sewer rate increases that will take effect on July 1, 2015. To help better understand how the rate increases might affect their bill, customers are encouraged to use the City of Columbia Residential Water/Sewer Bill Estimator located at [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net). This bill estimator shows a comparison of the Current Rates and the Approved Rates effective July 1, 2015.

This estimator shows what a typical residential customer bill might look like based on meter readings that you provide. It is designed for up to 100 units or 10,000 Ft<sup>3</sup> of use in a month on a 3/4" or 5/8" meter. Rates for over 100 units or 10,000 Ft<sup>3</sup> of use or for additional meter sizes can be found online at [Water & Sewer Rates](#). For questions about your particular bill, contact the City of Columbia's Customer Care Center at (803) 545-3300.



[Download the FAQ Rate Change Brochure](#)

## CITY'S ANNUAL SUMMER MOVIES AND CONCERT SERIES



The City of Columbia's Parks and Recreation Department kicked off their annual summer movie and concert series in June.

The Summer Movie Series is held at Riverfront Park, every Friday through July 31. The series features family-friendly entertainment through games, face painting and more prior to the start of the movie. The event begins at 7 p.m.

Every other Saturday through August 15, the Summer Concert Series is held at Finlay Park. The annual concert series showcases a variety of musical acts, providing entertainment for a diverse audience. The concerts are held from 8-10 p.m.

All concerts and movies are free and open to the public.

For a full list of 2015 summer movies and concerts, visit the [Parks and Recreation Department's Calendar of Events](#).

## CITY OF COLUMBIA'S VERTICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

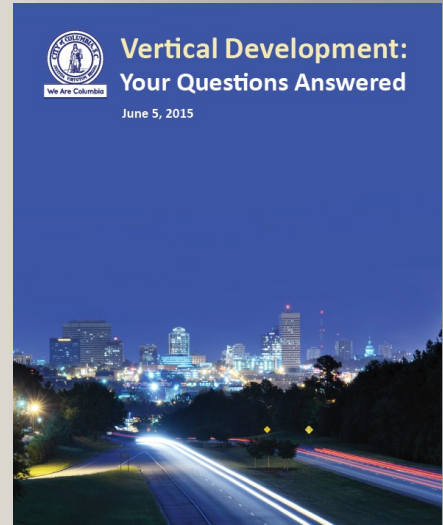
The results of the recent, City-supported Midlands Reality Check, conducted by the South Carolina Urban Land Institute, suggest that the Midlands' governmental, community, business and educational leaders support the creation of a dense, urban, live-work environment in Columbia's central business district. Thus, one of the goals was to identify one or more concepts which may lead to vertical development at and above City-owned garages.

Vertical development, or infill, is an urban planning approach that maximizes land use by building vertically on top of existing structures. It allows for more dense populations and can be designed to encourage an urban live-work environment. Vertical development also makes use of existing infrastructure, such as roads and utilities.

The City of Columbia believes vertical development will:

1. Create new economic development opportunities
2. Support and attract knowledge-based economy jobs which will assist in creating Intellectual capital throughout the region
3. Encourage development where infrastructure is already in place
4. Improve the quality of life for the citizens of Columbia and the Midlands region by providing downtown residential and/or relevant commercial opportunities

To learn more about the City's Vertical Development Plan, [download the Vertical Development Brochure](#).



## CITY MANAGER TERESA WILSON SELECTED FOR LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP'S 12TH CLASS

A fighter pilot, an award winning novelist and a state attorney general. These are a few of the "firsts" represented by the newest class of [Liberty Fellows](#). Dynamic and diverse, these 22 Fellows are standout leaders in the business, government and nonprofit sectors.

"When I consider these Fellows individually, I see women and men who know what they want and deliberately go after it. There's no sitting on the sidelines, waiting on someone to lead," said Hayne Hipp, who co-founded Liberty Fellowship with his wife, Anna Kate. "While this propensity to make things happen has served them well in their careers and community engagement, imagine the potential for South Carolina as they work collectively for the good of the state."

For the lifelong experience, Liberty Fellowship recruits diverse leaders and immerses them in four seminars over a two-year period. Challenge of Leadership, the first seminar, sets the stage for Fellows to consider not only how they lead, but why they lead. Through Socratic, round table discussions, Fellows reflect on what makes a just society, thereby deepening knowledge, broadening perspectives and enhancing their ability to tackle issues. A highlight of the program, the Globalization Seminar has Liberty Fellows interacting with Fellows from the Aspen Global Leadership Network in locations such as Jordan, India and China. Other key components for each Fellow are being paired with a mentor and committing to a leadership project focused on South Carolina.

"Our never-ending pursuit of growing the leadership capacity in South Carolina to benefit South Carolina takes huge strides with this group," commented Luanne Runge, Associate Executive Director. "Fellows in this 12<sup>th</sup> class are passionate about South Carolina and intent on discovering their place in solving the pressing challenges facing the state."

*"I am honored to be selected as a Liberty Fellow along with such an esteemed group of individuals. It is a privilege to serve the City of Columbia and I look forward to the wealth of knowledge that the Liberty Fellowship will provide in order to further my professional growth and development."*

*~City Manager Teresa Wilson*



## CEZ, Inc. HIGHLIGHTS NORTH MAIN PLAZA BUSINESSES WITH OPEN HOUSE

On Friday, June 19, 2015, the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. (CEZ, Inc.) held an open house and ribbon cutting for Eau Claire Family Dentistry, Eau Claire Family Podiatry and Ella's Café. CEZ, Inc. Board of Directors, Columbia City Council members, City Manager Teresa Wilson and City staff were in attendance.

The Eau Claire Family Dentistry and Eau Claire Family Podiatry medical practices are branches of Eau Claire Cooperative Health Centers (ECCHC). As a non-profit, community health care system, the ECCHC offers primary health care services to families of the Midlands of South Carolina. Podiatrist Dr. Trenten Prioleau and Dentist Dr. Glennell Smith look forward to welcoming new patients and continuing to care for all of their current patients.

"The addition of the two new medical practices has yielded a \$400,000 investment and created five new jobs in North Main Plaza," said Felicia Maloney, Executive Director of CEZ, Inc. "The CEZ, Inc. Board of Directors and I are ecstatic about this economic investment that will provide greater access to healthcare for City of Columbia residents."



Councilman Sam Davis, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Community leaders and the North Main Plaza business owners joined together for the North Main Plaza ribbon cutting.

*"The Columbia Empowerment Zone has a dedicated internal staff and Board of Directors that ensure areas such as North Columbia have the adequate resources they need by developing projects that help build our community. We're very excited to have two additional service providers in the North Main Plaza. We invite and encourage more businesses to join us and make themselves accessible to the residents in North Columbia."*

*~City Manager Teresa Wilson*



Get connected with the City of Columbia and stay up-to-date on news, events and more. Follow us on Twitter [@CityofColumbia](https://twitter.com/CityofColumbia).

The medical practices are located adjacent to Ella's Café, which is another North Main Plaza business. Ella's Café moved to North Main Street at the end of October 2014, and the owner, Ella Glover, has been in the restaurant industry for more than 17 years.

Ella's Café offers specials Monday through Friday for lunch and dinner, which include one meat and three sides. Her great food and affordable pricing have brought people across Columbia into her restaurant.

For more information about North Main Plaza businesses, contact the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. at (803) 255-8129.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL'S 51ST ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

The Community Relations Council (CRC) held its 51st Anniversary Luncheon and Awards Presentation on Wednesday, June 17. Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Manager Teresa Wilson and City staff were in attendance.



L-R: Sr. Assistant City Manager S. Allison Baker, Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Police Chief Skip Holbrook and Deputy Police Chief Melron Kelly.

## CITY MANAGER WILSON FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER AT ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MATTHEWS

On Monday, June 22, City Manager Teresa Wilson was the featured guest speaker at the Rotary Club of St. Matthews, where she discussed the growth of Columbia. She also provided an overview of the Build Columbia initiative.

Build Columbia aims to align functions and services in an effort to help amplify performance against expectations.

In addition, Build Columbia seeks to improve operations through Lean methods. This methodology ultimately benefits the City of Columbia in achieving its strategic and financial vision.



[Download the Build Columbia Overview](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns, suggestions and hopes for our City. I take pleasure in my service to each of you!

All my best,

City Manager  
1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201  
Phone: 803-545-3026  
Fax: 803-545-3051  
E-mail: [CityManager@ColumbiaSC.net](mailto:CityManager@ColumbiaSC.net)



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